

REMARKS

Claims 64-90 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12, 14-24, and 26-63 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer and claims 64-90 are added.

No new matter is added.

Applicants take this opportunity to thank Examiner Castellano for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the September 1 personal interview. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following response.

In the Office Action, claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. However, because claims 29-31 are canceled, this rejection is rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,952,347 to Kasugai. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 29-31 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer in favor of new claims 64-90. Independent claim 64 recites *inter alia*:

... a portion in relief on the inside of the tank made by a portion of a wall overmolded on at least one insert, said portion in relief defining a permanent housing inside the fuel tank ... an attachment separate from the insert attached to the portion in relief and at least partially received within the housing.

Kasugai discloses a fuel tank comprising a holding plate (6) carrying a pump unit (11). In Kasugai, the wall (2) of the fuel tank covers the holding plate (6) only at the periphery thereof and arguably around element 6d. See Figs. 1, 2 and 5. The portion of the wall (2) overmolded with the holding plate (6) forms no portion in relief that receives and mounts an attachment separate from the insert.

In Kasugai, the pump (11) is mounted on the holding plate (6) at a distance away from the periphery thereof or element 6d. The pump is not received in a portion in relief formed by

the portion of the wall (2) overmolded with (in contact with) the holding plate (6). Rather, a nipple portion (11a) of the pump (11) is inserted within a portion (3a) of the wall (2) that is spaced from the periphery of the wall (2), where the wall (2) covers the holding plate (6).

Portion (3a) is not formed by the holding plate (6).

Also, claim 64 recites, *inter alia*, that the insert does not pierce the wall of the tank. Kasugai discloses a holding plate (6) that pierces the tank wall. See Fig. 1 left side near reference 3.

Kasugai does not teach or suggest a fuel tank having a wall with a portion overmolded on the insert that defines a portion in relief forming a permanent housing inside the fuel tank that receives at least partially an attachment separate from the insert. Moreover, Kasugai fails to teach or suggest that the insert does not pierce the wall. Accordingly, claim 64 and claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Kasugai.

New independent claim 90 recites, *inter alia*, said attachment being situated at least partially inside the fuel tank and not being in contact with the insert.

Kasugai discloses pump (11) in contact with holding plate (6). Accordingly, Kasugai cannot anticipate claim 90.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,344,038 to Freeman, U.S. Patent No. 5,891,385 to Cerbelle et al., or U.S. Patent No. 5,445,783 to Irish et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed at the interview, Freeman discloses a fuel tank with a recess for receiving an exhaust system (26) that is located outside of the fuel tank (Figures). In Freeman, the insulative material (14) that is sandwiched in the tank wall does not form any housing for receiving an attachment. Rather, the insulative material (14) forms a heat shield against heat generated by the exhaust system (col. 3, lines 38-43). Thus, Freeman fails to

teach or suggest a portion in relief defining a housing inside the fuel tank as claimed that receives an attachment separate from the insert.

Cerbelle discloses a hollow body with a recess for a transmission shaft (14) that is also located outside of the fuel tank. As such, there is no contact between the body and the shaft. Thus, Cerbelle fails to teach or suggest that an attachment is attached to that portion in relief and is received in the housing (on the inside of the tank) as recited in claim 64 or claims dependent therefrom. Cerbelle also fails to teach or suggest an attachment separate from the insert situated inside the tank as recited in claim 90.

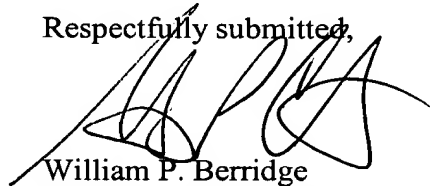
Irish discloses a hollow body including a unit (18) inside the body. However, Irish does not disclose or suggest an insert separate from an attachment mounted on the portion in relief in the wall of the body. Although unit (18) is fitted to the tank body, this is achieved using structures on the unit itself, and thus teaches away from use of an insert to form an overmolded portion in relief. Accordingly, Irish fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 64 or claims dependent therefrom. Moreover, because Irish fails to teach or insert an attachment, Irish does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 90.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 64-90 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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